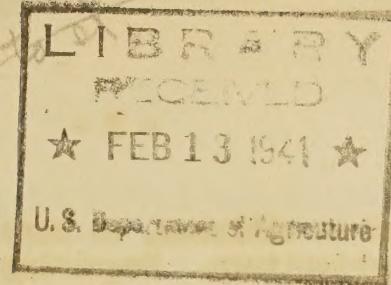


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EXTENSION SERVICE
U. S. Dept. Agr.



February 6, 1941

Statements of Prominent Officials for use in Educational Work
on Supplementary Cotton and Home Food Programs.

"A nation, like a person, has a body--a body that must be fed and clothed and housed, invigorated and rested, in a manner that measures up to the objectives of our time...."

"The hopes of the Republic cannot forever tolerate either undeserved poverty or self-serving wealth."

"We know that we still have far to go; that we must more greatly build the security and the opportunity and the knowledge of every citizen, in the measure justified by the resources and the capacity of the land."

President Roosevelt's Third Inaugural Address.

"With farmers burdened by price depressing surpluses and with many persons in need of the very foods of which the farmers had a surplus, it seemed to thoughtful people, both within and without the Department of Agriculture that we should expand our efforts to get these health-giving surplus foods to our under-nourished families. It seemed particularly important to get them to the unfortunate children in our poorer families as a matter of national health defense."

Vice President Henry A. Wallace,
Press Release, 1940, on Anniversary
of Food Stamp Plan.

"Three years before the outbreak of the present war, there were more than 1,700,000 farm families trying to exist on an average income of less than \$500 a year. This sum -- which includes all of the products which they raised for their own use -- means that about 8,500,000 people were struggling along on an average income of about \$2 a week each.....
..... It is hardly surprising, therefore, that large numbers of these people are becoming hopeless, discontented, and increasingly doubtful about our American way of life. They constitute the most fertile seedbed for those social ills which already are disrupting Europe.."

Henry A. Wallace in Testimony Before
Senate Appropriations Committee, May 27,
1940.

"As farmers and as citizens, we have a responsibility to help the under-privileged in agriculture. Requiring farmers to raise less cotton or other export crops isn't solving their problem. They must be encouraged and be given the means first of all to raise the things they need for their own tables. We can't afford to let people go without adequate diets. That is one reason why I say we need agricultural adjustment and not just reduction.

"Yes, I know this adjustment is certain to mean increased production of milk, pork and vegetables. Most of this increase will and should be consumed by the family on the farm or in the immediate neighborhood where produced.

"Likewise we must remember that one indispensable element in national preparedness is a well-fed, well-clothed, and well-housed rural people.

"However, there is one phase of the agricultural adjustment problem to which too little attention has been paid and it is a phase that offers real possibilities, in my opinion. Certainly it presents a challenge.

"I refer to the field of the underfed and poorly clothed people in cities and on farms. There is an opportunity in our own Nation where we can, unhampered by world relationships and completely unmindful of the war if you please, find an outlet for many of our so-called surpluses. In his recent message before Congress, the President named four kinds of freedom. One of those was freedom from want. With 20 million people living on an average of 5 cents per meal, we can hardly say that the American people are free from want now."

Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture,
at Farm and Home Week Convocation, Purdue
University, Lafayette, Indiana, January 15,
1941.

"This supplementary cotton program offers an additional opportunity to improve the living standards of cotton farmers, to further reduce the acreage of cotton this year, and to provide more cotton goods for the people who produce cotton. It is an ironical fact that many cotton producers have not in the past been able to buy needed cotton products. Equally important is the opportunity this program offers to offset nutritional diseases and poor health conditions among low income farmers through encouraging farmers to produce for home consumption more of the vegetables, fruits, dairy products and meat of which there is now a deficiency in many cotton areas. To emphasize and promote the production of food and feed for home consumption on cotton farms, additional small practice payments will be provided for increased food production for home consumption on those farms which qualify for cotton stamps in 1941."

Secretary Claude R. Wickard in
Press Release, January 13, 1941.

"If this nation should be forced into a great emergency, then every man, woman and child in the United States should be prepared by being in the best physical and nervous condition that the science of nutrition can develop and maintain."

M. L. Wilson, Director, U. S.
Extension Service, Southeastern
Regional Restaurant Convention,
Washington, D. C., December 2,
1940.

"As one who takes pride in America, I want to say very emphatically that subsistence living on submarginal farms is no answer to the needs of the surplus rural population. Their ancestors did not come to America in search of a heritage like that. Our great country, overflowing with abundance, owes these stranded families a real opportunity to live the way Americans should live.....

"We may as well read the handwriting on the wall. Foreign markets for our agricultural commodities have been narrowing down for a long time in the past, and there is every indication that they will continue to shrink in the future. In addition to this long-time downward trend, there has been a terrific cut in farm exports as a result of the war."

R. M. Evans, AAA Administrator, at
Annual Meeting of Farmers Grain
Dealers Assn. of Iowa, Des Moines,
Iowa, January 29, 1941.

"Forty-five million of us are living below the safety line right now because we are not getting the kinds and amounts of food necessary for strength and health. Hungry, undernourished people do not make for strong defense. We have the lands, machines, and hands it takes to produce and move to market all the food we need to assure everyone an adequate and safe diet. Let's get to work and see that everyone gets at least that. Let's make America strong by making Americans stronger."

Harriett Elliott of National
Defense Advisory Commission.

"Defense is planes and guns. It is equipping an army to man our military weapons. It is this, and more. It is building the health, the physical fitness, the social well-being of all our people, and doing it the democratic way. Hungry People, undernourished people, ill people, do not make for strong defense.

"This, then, is our job, not all of it, but a vital part: Let us make every American strong, stronger than ever before, sturdier in body, steadier in nerves, surer in living....."

Harriet Elliott of National Defense Advisory Commission, in Consumers Guide, September, 1940.

"It has become increasingly clear that under present world conditions untapped markets here in the United States offer the best chance to hold adequate outlets for our farm production. The unsatisfied wants of millions of our citizens offer a challenge and an opportunity to increase domestic distribution.

"Millions of families are said to be living on an income which leaves only five cents a meal for each person. Families at this level do not get enough of fruits and vegetables, of dairy and poultry products, or of meats. Neither do they buy adequate supplies of clothing and household goods."

Milo Perkins, Administrator of Surplus Marketing Administration, in Press Release, January 28, 1941.

"We are going to have to face the future realistically. We are going to have to figure out the worst possible situations, and then prepare to meet them. We are going to have to be prepared to see our export markets drastically reduced..... We are going to have to produce more food and feed for home use, so that each farm can be as nearly self-sufficient as possible. And last, but far from least, we are going to have to guard against the depletion and destruction of our soil that took place in the first World War."

I. W. Duggan, Director, Southern Division, AAA, at Annual Convention of Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs, November 8, 1940.

"Farmers know their prices are too low, but they also know that in spite of the ultra-modern weapons of war, an army still must have food and fiber. To feed and clothe that army and the nation behind it is the farmers' job. That's their contribution to national defense.....

"Most of us will agree, I think, that had it not been for government loans and purchases and other programs administered by the Department of Agriculture the losses because of the war would be greater than the gains resulting from the huge armament expenditures."

Chester C. Davis, National Defense Advisory Commission, at Annual Convention of Assoc. of Land Grant Colleges, November 13, 1940.

"Farm people make farming a business to provide a satisfactory living for their families. Consequently we cannot think of the changing farm economy of the last two decades as merely economic. Economics to the farm family is only a means to an end, and that end is an improved, satisfying family living. Consequently our home demonstration workers and others who work specifically to improve the farm home, health, diet, and other family living conditions need to know as much about the economic changes that have been forced on farmers as do our economists and men workers striving to help farmers improve the farm business. The two, farm business and farm living, go hand in hand.

Reuben Brigham, Assistant Director of Extension Work, USDA, at Extension Service Conference, February 12, 1940.

